MI SHA NEWS

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Construction Forum

Michigan Leaders Shared Strategies and Resources at the Governor's Construction Safety and Health Forum

On MARCH 6th, **Robert W. Swanson**, Acting Director, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), welcomed more than 270 construction employers from across the state to the Governor's Construction Safety and Health Forum.

"We convened this forum to share the message that strong protections can help companies significantly increase their competitiveness," said **Governor Granholm**. "The construction industry is vital to our economy. We share a common vision–to make Michigan an economic powerhouse with safe and healthy workers."

The construction industry is one of the most hazardous industries in Michigan. Only about four percent of Michigan's workforce is employed in construction–however, construction fatalities account for nearly 50 percent of all fatal workplace accidents!

Building a Strong Michigan

"Every speaker on our agenda today has worked to form collaborative partnerships to build a stronger Michigan," said **Swanson**. "Business, labor and government are coming together in unprecedented ways to create an economic approach whose foundation is workplace safety and health."

Top executives from Michigan's "Best of the Best" construction companies shared their stories of business successes, while creating a safe and healthful work environment for their employees. Representing a wide range of construction environments, all shared a message of increasing competitiveness through strong worker safety and health efforts.

"Construction is a major part of our economy and a significant source of jobs and income–with continued growth expected over the next ten years," said **Odell Jones III**, President and CEO, JOMAR Building Company, Inc., and Detroit AGC Chairman. "Knowledgeable construction professionals have long understood that safe worksites are a prerequisite to profitable jobs, and understand that a project must be executed safely in order to truly be successful."

"Through MiTAPS, we're making Michigan a better place to do business by reducing the time it takes to obtain permits and licenses," said **Henry L. Green**, Executive Director, Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety. "Critical information shared at the forum will help all of us work toward building a stronger foundation for the construction industry and for the safety of the workers on these jobs."

Robert W. Swanson, Odell Jones III, Patrick Devlin, Henry L. Green, Doug Roggenbaum, and John Doherty, discussed the vital importance of the construction industry to Michigan's economic well-being.

Protecting Workers Adds Value

MIOSHA is partnering with construction companies and organizations across the state to spread the word that

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Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth

From the MIOSHA Director's Desk

Reducing Construction Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities

By: Douglas J. Kalinowski

In 1997, there were 34 construction-related, workplace fatalities in Michigan–significantly more than there had been for many years.

To help address this issue, the MIOSHA Program assembled a "**Construction Summit**" in early 1998. It was attended by more than 100 contactors, and building trades and association representatives.

Feedback and ideas to help improve everyone's efforts in addressing the tragic number were elicited and shared. While many new approaches came out of this meeting, a certain level of apprehension and caution in working with MIOSHA was evident for some participants.

New Collaborative Approaches

Since that time, MIOSHA has implemented a number of ways to share information and facilitate collaboration with the construction industry. Some of these include the following:

- Increased the number of construction safety consultants.
- Worked with the communication tower industry to develop procedures to more safely erect communication towers.
- Worked with various construction contractors and employers to develop a rough-terrain forklift standard.
- Increased the number of industrial hygienists specializing in construction.
- Co-sponsored statewide seminars on key issues such as asbestos, trenching and fall protection.
- Prepared significantly more written rule interpretation/guidance documents.
- Increased information on the MIOSHA website to share educational and key interpretive information.

MIOSHA also developed collaborative **alliances** and **partnerships** with key businesses and organizations to work together to create an environment where workplace safety and health is a basic foundation for doing business.

Formal alliances enable organizations committed to workplace safety and health to collaborate with MIOSHA to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. A formal alliance offers groups and associations a relationship built on trust that can leverage resources to maximize worker safety and health protection. Our construction alliances include:

- Associated General Contractors (AGC), Michigan Chapter,
- Associated General Contractors (AGC), Greater Detroit Chapter,
- Construction Association of Michigan,
- Great Lakes Fabricators and Erectors,
- Masonry Institute of Michigan, and
- The former Michigan Road Builders Association.

On January 12, 2005**, Walbridge Aldinger**, the **Greater Detroit Building and Trades Council**, and **MIOSHA** signed a historic partnership to ensure the safety and health of workers on a complex construction project. The City of Dearborn contracted with Walbridge Aldinger to construct a $34 million Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project. On the 30-month project, Walbridge Aldinger will coordinate the work of 21 subcontractors and 20 building trades unions, involving more than 500 trades workers. **All parties have pledged to work toward the ultimate goal of zero injuries!**

Overall, the number of construction-related fatalities in the state of Michigan has declined since that time, with 16 reported in 2005. While this is a "good thing," we all recognize that we will never be accepting of any workplace deaths.

Governor's Construction Safety & Health Forum

On March 6th of this year, MIOSHA hosted the first **Governor's Construction Safety and Health Forum**. This full-day event was attended by more 270 contractors, construction workers and association representatives and government officials. Speakers represented many of the large contractors, small contractors, building trades and construction associations that have a strong commitment to workplace safety and health. These are the people who are making changes in their companies a reality – those who know that helping prevent construction-related injuries and illnesses is not a "cost of doing business" but an important part of having a successful business.

The feedback that we received on the Governor's Forum has been very positive. Attendees commented on various ideas, concepts and solutions that they took away to use. The majority of the attendees rated the various categories (knowledgeable presenters, meet expectations, facilities, quality, future impact) and the overall forum as "Excellent." More than 90 percent of the participants rated the forum "Above Average" to "Excellent."

The speakers, leaders in their companies, associations and organizations, freely and candidly shared their thoughts, ideas and solutions to making Michigan's construction sites safer places to work. None of the apprehension and concerns that were evident at the 1998 Summit were apparent at the Governor's Forum.

Having the knowledge and commitment–and working together to share that knowledge and commitment–is one of the most important areas necessary to see long-term improvements in the safety and health of Michigan's construction workforce. This strong collaboration was clearly evident in the speakers and the attendees. I think that it is reflective of the changing mindset of Michigan's employers, workers and government officials. The desire and willingness to share ideas and successes continues to grow.

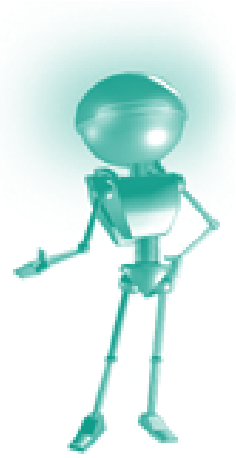
On behalf of MIOSHA, I would like to thank and salute all of the participants at the Governor's Forum. While our staff can talk about the importance of safety and health (and we do), the greatest impact is possible when the leaders within the construction industry talk about their commitment and solutions.

We expect to hold more Governor's Construction Safety and Health Forums in the future. We will adjust the issues and format based on your feedback and input. It is collaborative efforts like this that will help us see continuing successes and improvements. Together we can **Make a Difference** for Michigan's working men and women.

Douglas J. Kalinowski

When Workers are Engaged—Workers Learn!

Learn with S.A.M.—a Safety Animated Machine



By: Connie O'Neill, Director
Consultation Education and Training Division

S.A.M. Invites You

S.A.M. plays the leading role in the safety and health training CD-ROM entitled "***MIOSHA Walkthrough for Manufacturers,***" mailed out free of charge to 30,000 Michigan manufacturers, on February 10th.

S.A.M is an animated character that contributes both humor and wisdom during 22 safety and health training modules. He falls from ladders, reattaches his robotic arm after an accident, and sparks a compelling interest and curiosity to learn with his questions and comments on safety and health.

A team of educators and a creative staff drawn from the entertainment business developed the CD-ROM and utilized MIOSHA staff to review content. The CD was produced by **e-Media Solutions**, a training technologies firm, at **Disney's Universal Studios** utilizing their professional production team. Two Michigan companies participated in the filming, **E & E Manufacturing** and **Blissfield Manufacturing**.

Unique Training Tool

Department of Labor & Economic Growth Acting Director **Robert W. Swanson** announced the distribution of the safety training CDs at Lansing Community College's West Campus. "In today's economic climate, government must leverage our resources to help Michigan's hard-pressed manufacturing sector," said Swanson. "This unique training tool will help Michigan companies provide safety and health training with significant cost savings."

The CD is a high-end interactive training tool that makes safety and health training interesting and engaging. The modules cover a wide range of topics including some of the most important for Michigan manufacturers such as: Lockout/Tagout, Hazard Communication, Welding & Cutting, Confined Spaces, Personal Protective Equipment, and Machinery Safety.

Trainees progress at their own pace through the modules. Quizzes along the way allow the trainees to measure their progress and go back to lessons if they feel they need extra help. Additionally, the flexibility of the CD format allows participants to start and stop training sessions to fit their schedules. Each module takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. At the end of each quiz, the learner can print out documentation showing that they have completed a module with their score.

Private Sector Collaboration

The "***MIOSHA Walkthrough for Manufacturers***" was made possible through a business model that relied upon a partnering of public and private sector funding from **MIOSHA**, the **Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)**, and the **Lansing Area Safety Council**. The Lansing Area Safety Council spearheaded the private-sector donor program for the CD production.

Premier Tab Sponsors include: **Dana Risk Management**, **DTE Energy**, FabEncCo, **Master Lock**, **RoboVent**, and **Scientific Technologies, Ind.** (STI). Resource Directory sponsors include: **Accident Fund**, **Alro Steel**, **American Lock**, **Confined Space and Emergency Spill Response**, **First Aid Only**, **Inland Waters Pollution Control**, **Michigan Safety Conference**, **Midwest Gas**, **Instrument Service**, and **North American Safety Products**.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm provides opening comments on the CD acknowledging the fact that successful employers know that protecting workers enhances their bottom line. She states. "This interactive CD can help all Michigan manufacturers become safer and more competitive in today's global economy."

MIOSHA announced the distribution of interactive safety training CDs at Lansing Community College's West Campus.

For a Free Copy

To obtain a free copy of the CD, contact the **Consultation, Education and Training (CET) Division** at 517.322.1809, visit our website at www.michigan.gov/miosha, or e-mail your request to sncutte@michigan.gov. ■

Temporary
MIOSHA
Relocation

Effective April 10, 2006

During our remodeling project, the MIOSHA Lansing offices will move **temporarily** to the address below.

Physical Location
Hollister Building
106 West Allegan Street
Lansing MI 48933

For **all correspondence**–please continue to use our **post office boxes.** Mailing addresses for all MIOSHA programs will remain the same.

During the temporary move–**all phone numbers will remain the same.** (Please see back cover.)

For map and directions to the Hollister Building, please visit our website, **www.michigan.gov/miosha.**

Congratulations Steel Industries!

SHARP Award for Safety and Health Excellence Presented to Steel Industries Inc.

Martha Yoder, MIOSHA Deputy Director; Tom Drake, Safety Coordinator, Steel Industries; Keith Woodland, President, Steel Industries; and Bob Swanson, DLEG Deputy Director.

On January 20th, the Forging Specialties Division of Steel Industries Inc., an Ameri-Forge Group Company, became the fourth facility in the state to receive the prestigious SHARP Award for an exemplary safety and health system.

MIOSHA established the Michigan Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) Award to recognize employers that have achieved safety and health excellence far beyond their peers.

DLEG Deputy Director **Bob Swanson** and MIOSHA Deputy Director **Martha Yoder** presented the SHARP Award to **Tom Drake**, Safety Coordinator, and **Keith Woodland**, President, Steel Industries. All Steel Industries employees were on hand to celebrate their achievement.

"I am proud to present this prestigious award to the employees and management of Steel Industries, particularly in connection with your $8 million expansion," said Swanson. "Your outstanding safety and health record demonstrates that a strong safety and health program goes hand in hand with increased production and profits."

The following public officials recognized their achievement: **Thaddeus McCotter**, (R) U.S. House of Representatives, District 11; **Laura Toy**, (R) Michigan Senate, District 6; **Andy Dillon**, (D) Michigan House of Representatives, District 17; **Larry Cesar Arreguin**, Governor's Southeastern Michigan Office; and R. **Miles Handy**, Supervisor, Redford Township.

Building Strong Relationships

David Heminger, President and CEO of Ameri-Forge Group Inc., Steel Industries' parent company, had high praise for Michigan's strong working relationship with Steel Industries, resulting in a safer workplace and culminating with the presentation of the SHARP Award. He emphasized that, "A safe working environment is essential to a successful company. The SHARP Award is a significant achievement for the people of Steel Industries and a key indicator that they are focusing on what is really important."

The MIOSHA **Onsite Consultation Program** within the CET Division operates the Michigan SHARP Program. Onsite consultants help employers to become self-sufficient in managing workplace safety and health. SHARP worksites earn an exemption from "programmed" MIOSHA inspections on a yearly basis.

Keith Woodland, President of Steel Industries Inc., remarked that, "The assistance, support and encouragement of several key MIOSHA personnel have been instrumental in our achieving this recognition. This has been a very positive experience for our company."

Achieving Safety Excellence

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code for the Forging Specialties Division is 332111 – ***Iron and Steel Forging***, which is classified as a high-hazard industry. The Division employs 57 workers, and their incidence rates are well below the national average for their NAICS code. Their Total Case Incidence Rate was 1.8 in 2004-compared to 14.7 for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) industry average. Their Total Days Away/Restricted Cases (DART) was 1.8 in 2004-compared to 6.4 for the BLS industry average.

"The Michigan SHARP Program requires a comprehensive consultation visit, and the correction of all serious workplace safety and health hazards," said Yoder. "The Forging Specialties Division has developed a safety and health system that provides outstanding protection for their workers."

The Division's safety and health system incorporates each of the seven required elements: Hazard Anticipation and Detection; Hazard Prevention and Control; Planning and Evaluation; Administration and Supervision; Safety and Health Training; Management Leadership; and Employee Participation. The MIOSHA evaluation team consisted of **William Griffie**, Onsite Safety Consultant, and **Fred Hawkins**, Onsite Health Consultant.

Some of their best practices include:

- Weekly Safety Inspections;
- Management of Change, as evidenced in a recent change in Powered Industrial Truck lift capacity;
- Root Cause Investigation of all Incidents, whether it triggers a recordable injury or not;
- Excellent Housekeeping, for this type of industry; and
- Top Management and Employee Involvement on the Safety Committee.

Providing Superior Products

With nearly a century of forging excellence, Steel Industries Inc. is a full service open die forging and seamless rolled ring manufacturer. The company is comprised of the three operating facilities with offices, manufacturing and warehousing facilities located in Redford Township, and employs a total of 141 workers.

Steel Industries is ISO 9001-2000 certified, and provides products for the power generation, industrial machinery, mining, construction, and transportation industries. This fall they announced an $8 million expansion project to upgrade their product offering. They will purchase land and buildings to add a heat-treating complex, additional CNC equipment and other processing equipment.

Founded in 1985, Ameri-Forge Group Company is one of the largest and most technologically advanced suppliers of forgings and machined products. ■

All Steel Industries employees were on hand to celebrate the safety and health achievements of the Forging Specialties Division.

Congratulations Northern Coatings!

Northern Coatings Inc. Receives SHARP Award for Safety and Health Excellence

On February 10th, Northern Coatings and Chemical Company, Inc., became the fifth facility in the state, and the first in the Upper Peninsula, to receive the prestigious Michigan SHARP Award for an exemplary safety and health management system.

"As one of only five companies to receive MIOSHA's prestigious SHARP Award, I'm proud to present this great honor to Menominee's Northern Coatings and Chemical Company," said **Congressman Bart Stupak**. "This award is bestowed only to companies that exemplify superior health and safety standards, which in turn promotes a safe work environment for their employees. Northern Coatings is certainly deserving of this recognition."

MIOSHA Director **Doug Kalinowski** and **Rep. Stupak** presented the SHARP Award to **Dan Jones**, Plant Manager; **Gene Lemery**, Production Supervisor & Maintenance Director; and **Larry Melgary**, President. Menominee Mayor **George Krah** and other elected officials congratulated the company on their achievement.

Becoming an Industry Leader

"Northern Coatings is an outstanding company! You are on the cutting edge of research in your field, you produce a high-quality product, and you have an exemplary safety and health program," said Kalinowski. "It is an honor to present the first SHARP Award in the Upper Peninsula to the employees and management of Northern Coatings and Chemical Company."

"Northern Coatings is an industry leader throughout the world because every worker takes great pride in their work–they work safe and they manufacture an incredibly high-quality product," said Melgary. "We are particularly proud of our employees for this outstanding achievement, given the challenges encountered in our industry."

"This recognition is based on dedication and hard work from everyone in our plant. As a company we have a strong commitment to the health and safety of all our employees," said Jones. "We are proud to be a partner with MIOSHA, having worked with their consultation program since 1996."

Building a Safe Environment

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code for Northern Coatings is 325510 – ***Paint and Coating Manufacturing***. They employ 34 workers, and the three-year average of their incidence rates is well below the national average for their NAICS code. Northern Coatings' Total Case Incidence Rate was 3.8 in 2003-compared to 5.1 for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) industry average. The Total Days Away/Restricted Cases (DART) for the company was 2.5 in 2003-compared to 2.8 for the BLS industry average.

"The Michigan SHARP Program requires a comprehensive consultation visit, and the correction of all serious workplace safety and health hazards," said Kalinowski. "Northern Coatings has developed a safety and health system that provides first-rate protection for their workers."

Northern Coatings' safety and health management system incorporates each of the seven required elements: Hazard Anticipation and Detection; Hazard Prevention and Control; Planning and Evaluation; Administration and Supervision; Safety and Health Training; Management Leadership; and Employee Participation. The MIOSHA evaluation team consisted of **Bob Dayringer**, Onsite Senior Health Consultant, and **Bill Shane**, Onsite Senior Safety Consultant.

Some of Northern Coatings' best practices include:

- Excellent preparation for emergencies, including homeland security issues;
- An effective hazard tracking procedure to address work safety orders, with reports to the Safety Committee;
- New material handling equipment to minimize ergonomic injuries;
- Effective exhaust ventilation controls for dusts and vapors;
- Various rewards for safe actions and best ideas; and
- Top Management and employee involvement on the Safety Committee.

Congressman Bart Stupak; Eugene Lemery, NCC Production Spvr. & Maintenance Dir.; Dan Jones, NCC Plant & QA Mngr.; Larry Melgary, NCC President; Doug Kalinowski, MIOSHA Director.

Creating a Safety Team

"Employees take an active roll in spotting and reporting safety issues and concerns. A monthly safety walk through is done by plant personnel on a rotating basis," said Lemery. "Management and employees work together as a team to implement safety and health practices that protect all workers."

The Safety Committee–which includes **Herb Kaufman** (CEO), **Larry Melgary** (President), **Rich Ulrich** (R & D and Chairman of the committee), **Sue Ellie** (Financial & H.R. Manager), **Gene Lemery** (Production Supervisor & Maintenance Director), **Mike Shaffer** (Purchasing), **Tracy Chaltry** (Quality Control), **Mike Rettke** (Maintenance/Shipping & Receiving), **Dan Jones** (Plant Manager) and one other employee representative who changes monthly–takes an active roll in employee training, safety and health activities, and safety and health outcomes.

Northern Coatings employs 34 workers and manufactures specialty coatings for fuel cells, medical equipment, engines and automotive equipment, and many other commercial products. They are ISO 9001:2000 certified, and for more than 35 years have been an industry leader in developing and producing high-quality, environmentally compliant coatings. ■

Northern Coatings became the first company in the Upper Peninsula to receive the SHARP Award and all employees participated in the celebration.

Confined Spaces Monitoring

Monitoring for Air Contaminants in Permit Required Confined Spaces

By: Bob Dayringer, CIH
Senior Onsite Health Consultant
Consultation Education & Training Division

Many spaces in the workplace can feel quite confining. However, to be classified as a confined space under the MIOSHA ***Permit Required Confined Space*** standard for general industry, a space must be:

- Large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and
- Have limited or **restricted** means for entry or exit (usually taken to mean having to use your hands to exit); and
- Not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

General industry employers must become familiar with their workplace by proactively assessing the building, equipment, and processes. Typical examples of confined spaces found in workplaces include boilers, ductwork, plating/rinse tanks, storage tanks, vaults, wells, sewers, tunnels, dust collectors, furnaces, pits, silos and process equipment, scrubbers, and storage tanks, to name some common examples.

Employers must also determine whether it is necessary for their employees or outside contractors to enter the spaces.

When confined spaces are identified, the space must be further evaluated to determine whether the space is a permit-required confined space (PRCS). To be classified as a PRCS, the space must:

- Contain, or have the potential to contain, a hazardous atmosphere that is oxygen deficient or enriched, explosive or combustible, and/or toxic in nature; or
- Have the potential to entrap an entrant due to inwardly converging walls; or
- Have the potential to engulf the entrant in a liquid or particulate substance; or
- Present any other recognized serious safety or health hazards.

Confined spaces should be monitored frequently because their atmosphere can be oxygen deficient or toxic.

Monitoring in Confined Spaces

Since deaths in confined spaces often occur because the atmosphere is oxygen deficient or toxic, confined spaces should be monitored frequently. Normally the reasons for monitoring air contaminants in a confined space are to determine:

- If the space has a respirable atmosphere and is safe to enter, and
- If the internal atmosphere continues to be respirable while employees are in the space performing their work activity.

The most common method of obtaining air contaminant information about a confined space is use of a multi-gas meter. These meters are available from a variety of manufacturers and normally come equipped to test for three or four items. The usual items include: oxygen; combustibles (flammable or explosive vapors); carbon monoxide; and other toxics, such as hydrogen sulfide. However, there are a variety of sensors available that can often be substituted or ordered separately for monitoring special conditions. Monitoring for harmful levels of hydrocarbon solvents (toluene, acetone, MEK, etc.) may require more sensitive and specific equipment.

Monitoring from Outside the Space

When conducting monitoring in a confined space it is extremely important that all monitoring be performed from outside the space. The meter (if intrinsically safe, equipped with information logging and/or an alarm, and if a large enough hole is already open) can be lowered into the space. A better sampling practice is using a probe attached to the meter and extended into the space. When using a probe, significant time must be allowed for the meter's pump to pull the sampled air through the length of the probe. Monitoring should be done through a small sampling probe porthole (like the small hole in most manhole covers).

This is for two reasons:

- In an atmosphere where the concentration of combustibles is **above** the upper explosive limit (UEL), opening a larger hole could allow enough oxygen into the confined space to move the combustible concentration into the explosive range. Note that in an atmosphere above the UEL you might see a quick spike in the combustible reading and then the combustible level fall, possibly to near zero. This is because the meter has to have sufficient oxygen to be able to accurately detect combustibles. In this case, if we switch to the oxygen scale, the oxygen reading would be low and the combustibles reading cannot be trusted. This is why you are required to **monitor for oxygen first**.
- In an atmosphere which is in an explosive range–above the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL), and below the UEL–a spark could be generated causing an explosion.

The oxygen probe is a maintenance item on most meters and has to be replaced every year or two. It will need to be replaced whether or not it is used.

Monitoring Combustibles

The combustibles probe measures all combustibles. It must be calibrated before use and normally is calibrated using methane gas. If the combustible is some gas or vapor other than methane, the meter readings will not be correct. There are two choices here. The meter can be calibrated for the correct gas or vapor if a calibration gas is available, or a conversion chart comparing the methane reading to the actual gas/vapor reading can be used. It is important that the methane reading not be automatically used. When calibrated for methane, a false low reading will be achieved for many gases/vapors.

Another problem with combustible readings is the false sense of security an incorrectly interpreted low reading can give. Typically the **combustible** gas monitor reading is providing a reading in percent (or parts per **hundred**) of the LEL, and the top of the scale equals 100 percent of the LEL. This is much different than the scale used to measure most **toxics** which is parts per **million**. To assume that a low part per hundred is the same as low parts per million could be a fatal assumption. For example, two parts per hundred equals 20,000 parts per million.

Let's look at another example where we monitor a confined space containing toluene and get a one percent LEL reading on the combustible sensor, but we had calibrated that sensor for methane. The LEL for toluene is 1.25 percent, or 12,500 parts of toluene per million parts of air (ppm). So, only one percent of the LEL would seem low, but is still 125 ppm of toluene. If our monitor was calibrated for methane, the reading on the sensor would **indicate only about**

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Power Transmission Towers

Workers are Exposed to Fall Protection and Electrical Hazards

By: Richard Grafmiller
Senior Safety Officer
Construction Safety and Health Division

The MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division received a referral regarding employee exposure to serious hazards while painting power transmission towers along the I-96 freeway, east of Beck Road. This is a highly visible area along a busy freeway between metropolitan Detroit and Lansing.

The towers are part of the distribution system owned by **International Transmission Company (ITC)**. An inspection of the jobsite revealed an ongoing painting operation with four men climbing aloft on a 132-foot tall lattice frame tower. The safety officer identified hazards related to both fall protection and exposure to electrical hazards.

The towers support high voltage lines carrying 345,000 volts three phase, supported by three cross arms extending north and south on each side of the tower, approximately 20 feet apart. The tower was in the process of being painted by **Morris Painting Company**, which specializes in painting power transmission towers.

There are 12,000 towers to be painted as part of this $18.3 million dollar project. It takes four employees working eight hours to paint one tower, which equates to 384,000 work-hours of exposure to fall and electrical hazards to complete the project.

Fall Protection Hazards

Morris Painting Company experienced a fatality when an employee fell from a similar tower in May 2004, while painting on this same project.

Falls are one of the leading causes of fatalities in the construction industry. An average of 362 fatal falls occurred each year nationwide from 1995 to 1999. MIOSHA has investigated 44 fatalities over the 5-year period of 2001 through 2005 related to falls at construction worksites. Almost all construction worksites have employees exposed to fall hazards at some point during the project.

If proper fall protection is not provided, injuries from falls may result, ranging from sprains and contusions to broken bones and death. MIOSHA Part 1, ***General Rules***, Rule 114 requires an Accident Prevention Program at every construction worksite which must address fall hazards. MIOSHA, Part 45, ***Fall Protection***, addresses minimum requirements and criteria for fall protection at construction workplaces.

To address these serious issues, MIOSHA initiated a campaign to help ensure that employers are aware of the need to adequately train their employees and provide opportunity for their employees to attend training on fall protection. In the late summer 2005, a mass mailing was sent to more than 5,800 Michigan construction employers identified as having work activities that may expose employees to fall hazards.

The mailing encouraged employers to contact the MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division, if they have employees who need training. Workshops continue to be scheduled and are posted on the CET Calendar on the MIOSHA website at **www.michigan.gov/miosha**. Employers can also contact their trade association, a safety training or educational consultant, or other training center.

Workers painting power transmission towers are exposed to both fall and electrical hazards.

Electrical Hazards

Electricity is an essential part of modern life. Because it is such a familiar part of our surroundings, it often is not treated with the respect it deserves. Electrocution is one of the leading causes of fatalities in the construction industry. MIOSHA has investigated 21 fatal electrocutions in construction in the 5-year period of 2001 through 2005.

The **Accident Prevention Program** required by MIOSHA Part 1, must also address electrical hazards and the variety of ways electricity becomes a hazard. In addition, MIOSHA Part 1, Rule 115; Part 8, ***Handling and Storage of Materials***; Part 11, ***Fixed and Portable Ladders***; and Part 32, ***Aerial Work Platforms***, also have language that addresses maintaining a minimum of 10 feet from energized electrical parts.

The distance increases by 0.4 inches per kilovolt over 50 kilovolts, so the minimum required distance can be greater than 10 feet. The minimum distance from a 345,000-volt (345-kilovolt) source is 19 feet 8 inches. Also, MIOSHA Part 17, ***Electrical Installations***, Rule 1724 requires that employees not work near any part of an electrical power circuit unless protected. A specific electrical hazard that is addressed by MIOSHA standards is contact with power lines.

Investigation Summary

On the I-96 power transmission project, the safety officer brought to the attention of Morris Painting Company and International Transmission Company (ITC) that there were a number of hazards that need to be addressed before the project should proceed.

ITC, who owns the towers and holds the contract for Morris Painting, agreed to stop the work until the safety issues could be reviewed. Because it was the fall of the year, the work would have been stopped shortly because the painting cannot be conducted unless the temperature is above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

The hazards discussed with Morris and ITC included:

1. Free climbing the step bolt ladder.
2. Uniformity of the step bolts.
3. An offset in the fixed ladder with no platform.
4. Employees were not using 100 percent fall protection while on the tower.
5. Double lanyard hooks were used on one D-ring on the body harness.
6. No shock absorber on the lanyards used to tie off.
7. Working above energized lines, fall protection would allow employees to fall into the "HOT ZONE."
8. No readily available means of rescue should a fall occur.
9. No rating for the ladder rungs used as tie off points for fall protection on the pole towers.
10. Workers were allowed to work within the required safe minimum clearance (19'8") to

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West Dig Contractors, Inc.

MIOSHA Cites Company for Willful and Serious Trenching Violations and Proposes $194,000 in Penalties

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) Director **David C. Hollister** announced on January 31st, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) had cited West Dig Contractors, Inc., of Kalamazoo, with $194,000 in proposed penalties for allegedly failing to adequately protect employees from trenching and excavation hazards at two locations in Marquette.

"Trenching accidents are a major cause of serious job-related injuries and fatalities in Michigan," said Hollister. "It is critical for this employer, and all construction employers, to protect their workers form the risks of cave-ins and other excavation hazards."

Excavation protection is essential, since the sides of a trench can collapse with great force and without warning, burying workers beneath tons of soil before they have a chance to react or escape. To ensure worker safety at excavations more than five feet deep, walls must be sloped or shored, or trench shields or boxes must be used, to prevent serious injuries or fatalities.

Cave-ins however, are not the only threat to these construction workers. They also face hazards associated with:

- Underground utilities,
- Working with heavy machinery,
- Manual handling of materials,
- Working in proximity to traffic, and
- Electrical hazards, such as overhead power lines.

West Dig Contractors' employees were working in a trench nine feet deep, with near vertical sides and no traffic protection.

MIOSHA Inspections

On September 26, 2005, West Dig Contractors employees were installing 12-inch water main pipe along the north side of Grove St., west of Vandenboom Rd., in Marquette. Employees were working in a trench nine feet deep, with near vertical sides and no traffic protection. MIOSHA received a complaint that employees at this site were in danger, and conducted an inspection from Sept. 26, to Oct. 11, 2005, (Inspection #307795138).

MIOSHA received information from agencies and officials associated with this project that West Dig's excavations and operations were not consistently safe. Employers in the excavation business have a duty to know and abide by all legal requirements involving excavating and trenching.

A subsequent inspection from Nov. 3 to 7, 2005, at the company's continuing water main installation on Grove St., in Marquette, revealed similar conditions (Inspection #307794511). The MIOSHA compliance officer again found excavation sites that were not properly sloped or supported, with a lack of traffic control close to a very busy roadway; similar to conditions documented at previous inspections

During the course of the compliance inspections, earlier trench collapses were reported. On Aug. 23, 2005, an employee was partially buried while attempting to locate utilities in an excavation on Grove St. The employee suffered a closed fracture of his lower left leg, resulting in two days of lost work time. On Oct. 26, 2005, employees were installing water pipe on County Rd. 492, near Grove St. The trench was eight feet deep, with near vertical sides. An employee was buried to his knees when the side of the trench collapsed, but was able to dig himself out.

Trench sloping and support systems are required by the MIOSHA Construction Safety Standard, Part 9, ***Excavation, Trenching, and Shoring***. This standard covers the digging of excavations and trenches that an employee is required to enter, and the supporting systems used on construction operations. Part 9 also requires a trained and experienced "qualified person" to evaluate excavation hazards.

Summary of Violations

The company received a combined total of five alleged willful violations with a proposed penalty of $182,000; three alleged serious violations with a proposed penalty of $12,000; and three alleged other-than-serious violations with no monetary penalty, for a combined total proposed penalty of $194,000.

The Willfull Serious violations included:

- No Inspection by Qualified Person;
- Excavation Not Properly Sloped/ Shored (both sites);
- Failure to Use Proper Traffic Control (both sites).

The Serious violations included:

- Non-operator Riding Front End Loader;
- Failure to Store Spoils Properly;
- No Traffic Vest with Reflector Material.

A willful violation represents an intentional disregard of the requirements of MIOSHA regulations, or plain indifference to employee safety and health. A serious violation exists where there is a substantial probability that serious physical harm or death can result to an employee. The company has appealed the citations and penalties.

Trenching Awareness Campaign

Because of the recognized higher hazards in excavation and trenching, these work operations are a focus in the MIOSHA five-year strategic plan. MIOSHA is coordinating an awareness campaign to remind employers that employee training is required–and to provide training opportunities through the Consultation Education & Training (CET) Division.

Companies can contact the **CET Division at 517.322.1809** for construction consultation, education and training services. For more information on MIOSHA standards and excavation and trenching hazards, companies can contact the **Construction Safety and Health (CSH) Division at 517.322.1856**. ■

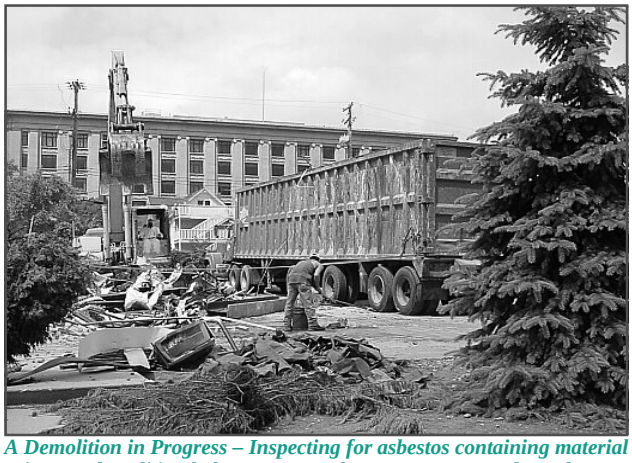
Asbestos Inspections Right Rail

By: Susan Baldwin
Industrial Hygienist Specialist
Asbestos Program Training Coordinator

Did You Know?

Did you know that MIOSHA Standards, Part 602, ***Asbestos Standards for Construction***, (29 CFR 1926.1101), and Part 305, ***Asbestos for General Industry***, (29 CFR 1910.1001), require that all building facilities (excluding residential owner occupied homes) constructed prior to 1981, where employees may enter, work, or contact building materials **must be inspected for asbestos-containing building materials** (ACBM)? Also, all such vacant buildings scheduled for renovation or demolition must have an asbestos building survey completed prior to the start of the renovation or demolition.

Part 305, Section (j)(2)(i) states, "Building and facility owners shall determine the presence, location, and quantity of ACM (asbestos-containing material) or PACM (presumed asbestos-containing material) at the work site. Employers and building and facility owners shall exercise due diligence in complying with these requirements to inform employers and employees about the presence and location of ACM and PACM."



A Demolition in Progress – Inspecting for asbestos containing material prior to a demolition helps ensure workers are not exposed to asbestos.

Part 602, Section (k)(2)(i) reads, "Before work subject to this standard is begun, building and facility owners shall determine the presence, location and quantity of ACM and/or PACM at the work site pursuant to paragraph (k)(1) of this section."

The survey/inspection must adhere to the ***Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act*** (AHERA) inspection protocol and be performed by a Michigan accredited asbestos building inspector or Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH). The building survey must also include the presence, location, and quantity of **all** 'suspect' ACBM. Additionally, laboratory analysis information should be a part of the building survey document.

Are You Providing Training?

Once an asbestos building survey has confirmed or assumed the presence of ACBM, all employees who work around and may contact but not disturb ACBM (i.e. persons conducting janitorial, building maintenance, and/or housekeeping activities) must receive, at minimum, asbestos awareness training.

The training must be at least two hours in length and must be conducted annually by a qualified individual. The training must cover the recognition of all building materials that may contain asbestos, the health hazards associated with asbestos exposure, and the MIOSHA regulations that must be followed if the work involves asbestos removal or disturbance activities.

Additionally, employees who may disturb ACBM (i.e. persons working with any of the mechanical systems that have asbestos-containing materials) must have additional asbestos-related training that satisfies the class of work activity that they are involved with (i.e., Class I, II, or III).

Construction trades routinely renovate and demolish buildings and, consequently, asbestos may be touch or disturbed. Not only does this expose construction employees and the general public to significant health hazards, but it also potentially exposes the companies involved to substantial legal liabilities. Past experience indicates that much of the exposure is linked to workers who unknowingly remove or disturb asbestos-containing materials.

If construction contractors would ask for, receive, and review an asbestos building survey before initiating construction activities, many asbestos-related exposure incidences could be avoided.

Where Can You Get Information?

The primary function of the **MIOSHA Asbestos Program** is to ensure that people working with asbestos are properly trained and that workers performing asbestos disturbance and/or removal activities comply with rules governing the work activity.

These rules are designed to protect not only the employee performing asbestos abatement work, but also the general public that occupies the areas or buildings where the work occurs

For additional information, please contact the **Asbestos Program** at **517.322.1320**. ■

Company Convicted and Sentenced for Worker Fatality

On February 24th, **Attorney General Mike Cox** announced the conviction and sentencing of Right Rail, Inc., on one count of a Michigan Occupational Safety and Heath Administration (MIOSHA) felony violation. Right Rail, a Mio guardrail installation company, pled nolle contendre in January in the Iosco County Circuit Court. Judge Ronald M. Bergeron sentenced Right Rail to the maximum fine of $10,000.00 and placed the company on probation for two years.

"Michigan workers must be able to know that their workplace is as safe as possible," said Cox. "Michigan's employers are responsible for protecting their workers, and the willful violation of the law will not be condoned."

Richard Green of Mio, a Right Rail employee, was killed while installing guardrail along M-65 south of Hale in November 2002. A boom truck operated by Green came in contact with an energized electric line, electrocuting Green.

Green had a nearly identical event happen to him in September 2002, when his boom truck touched an electric line, resulting in a shock that required hospitalization. Following the first episode, Right Rail failed to develop, maintain, and coordinate with its employees an accident prevention program before Green's tragic death.

In addition to the criminal fine, Right Rail has agreed to pay $32,480.00 in penalties for MIOSHA citations arising from the same tragic episode. The company further agreed to provide training for its employees and to strict monitoring by MIOSHA.

The conviction of Right Rail marks the fifth criminal conviction for a workplace fatality. The four other convictions are: **Lanzo Construction Company**, January 2005; **J.A. Morrin Concrete Construction Company** and **James Morrin, Jr.**, **Foreman**, October 2002; **Midland Environmental Services, Inc.**, and **Edmond Woods, Owner**, November 2000; **American Bumper and Manufacturing Company,** January 1996.

Section 35(5) of in the MIOSH Act provides for criminal sanctions if an employer's willful violation of MIOSHA causes the death of an employee. Based on this provision, every willful violation, which is connected to a fatality, is referred to the Attorney General's office for criminal investigation and/or prosecution. ■

MTA Workers' Compensation Fund Alliance

On January 19th, MIOSHA and the **Michigan Tooling Association Workers' Compensation Fund** (MTA WCF) signed a formal alliance to protect the safety and health of Michigan's metalworking industry workers.

Gary Wood, Fund Administrator, MTA WCF; and **Connie O'Neill**, Director, Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division, MIOSHA; signed the alliance. Also participating in the signing was the Fund Board of Trustees, which is composed of active MTA members.

"We are proud to sign this alliance, which makes worker safety a top priority for the tooling industry," said O'Neill. "This proactive partnership between labor, industry and government, can save lives by ensuring that worker safety and health plays an integral role in MTA member's workplaces."

"The Trustees of the Michigan Tooling Association Workers' Compensation Fund look forward to the opportunity presented by this alliance," said Wood. "One of the primary focuses of the MTA WCF is improving shop safety through education and training; this joint effort will increase awareness and promote safe acts which should result in reduced incidences of injury in the members' shops."

The goals of this alliance include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting and improving shop safety by providing safety awareness and other outreach activities across the state;
- Providing training and education activities and encouraging member participation;
- Sponsoring seminars with the CET Division on power press safety, safety and health management systems, and lockout/tagout; and
- Including articles in the MTA Newsletter on the alliance, on the seminars, and other safety issues.

For over 70 years, the Michigan Tooling Association (MTA) has been the voice of the tooling industry, offering meaningful assistance and cost saving programs and services. The MTA is made up of businesses in the metalworking industry located throughout the state, including tooling shops, design and engineering facilities, metal goods fabrications, fabrication shops, mold and pattern design and builders, and foundries.

With nearly 500 members, the MTA Workers' Compensation Fund is a non-profit group self-insurance fund. The Fund helps control the workers' compensation environment of its members through effective cost control, improved safety and vigilance against fraudulent claims.

For information about forming an alliance or partnership with MIOSHA, please check our website at www.michigan.gov/miosha. ■

Doug Mack, Grosse Tool; Gary Wood, MTA WCF Fund Administrator; Bobby Cox, Acorn Stamping; Connie O'Neill, CET Director; Kurt Heuser, Bokum Tool; Brad Lawton, Star Cutter; and Jack Accardo, GHB Company.

Masonry Institute of Michigan Alliance

MIOSHA and the **Masonry Institute of Michigan, Inc**., signed a formal alliance on February 22nd to protect the safety and health of Michigan's masonry industry workers.

John Robovitsky, President, Masonry Institute of Michigan; and **Doug Kalinowski**, Director, MIOSHA Program; signed the alliance. Also participating in the signing were several members of the Institute's Board of Trustees: **Ed Davenport**, 1st Vice-President, Davenport Masonry; **Larry Durkin**, Treasurer, Durkin & Company Contractors; **Kyle Lochonoic**, Wall Bracing Committee Chairperson, Davenport Masonry; and **Daniel Zechmeister**, Executive Director, Masonry Institute of Michigan.

Patty Meyer, CSHD Mngr.; Bob Pawlowski, CSHD Dir.; Doug Kalinowski, MIOSHA Dir.; John Robovitsky, MIM President; Ed Davenport, Davenport Masonry; Kyle Lochonoic, Davenport Masonry; Daniel Zechmeister, MIM Ex. Dir.; Larry Durkin, Durkin & Company Contractors.

"We are proud to sign this alliance, which makes worker safety priority number one in the masonry industry," said Kalinowski. "This proactive partnership between labor, industry and government, provides us with the unique opportunity to foster safe and healthy workplaces with Institute members."

"The signing of the alliance today is a significant move for all of us in setting a standard for safety in the masonry industry. Working together will allow for easier and quicker strides to creating a safer workplace for all," said Robovitsky.

The goals of this alliance include, but are not limited to:

- Promote life safety as the principal goal in providing a high level of protection to masonry industry personnel and other construction employees.
- Promote the latest *Standard Practice for Bracing Masonry Walls Under Construction and Masonry Wallbracing Design Handbook* published by the Mason Contractors Association of America, as an industry standard and accept it as in compliance with the MIOSHA Construction Safety Standards, Part 2.
- Train and educate the workforce and MIOSHA on temporarily bracing masonry walls under construction safely above grade.
- Provide assistance and expertise to the MIOSHA Construction Safety Standards Commission for updating and improving Part 2. Masonry Wall Bracing.
- Use various outreach tools to share safety and health information and the goals of the alliance with mason contractors.

Since its inception in 1958, the Masonry Institute of Michigan, Inc. has been dedicated to the promotion and advancement of the masonry industry. The Institute provides information to the industry and to the public. The Institute's goal is to promote quality masonry, quality masonry units and materials, functional and efficient designs, and quality workmanship. The Institute has 210 active member companies. ■

MIOSHA Hurricane Katrina Volunteers

Immediately following the landfall of Hurricane Katrina, federal OSHA offered the full resources of the agency to help protect the safety and health of workers responding to the devastation along the Gulf Coast.

Many states, including **Michigan**, sent professionals to help ensure the safety and health of recovery workers. Starting in November, nine MIOSHA staff volunteered to work a two-week shift in Louisiana to assist the federal teams.

Recovery and cleanup work is hazardous and deadly. Early on, OSHA encouraged workers to take proper safety and health precautions to avoid serious injuries from falls, downed electrical wires, chain saws, flooding, mold, and other hazards.

The safety and health professionals that were deployed provided technical assistance to recovery workers in their ongoing cleanup activities. The teams focused on safety and health issues for workers involved in debris removal and a variety of construction projects, as well as utility workers performing power and telecommunications restoration.

MIOSHA Volunteers

DeWayne Cord, Construction Safety and Health Division;

Sharman Cross, General Industry Safety and Health Division;

Bob Dayringer, Consultation Education & Training Division;

James Kivell, General Industry Safety and Health Division;

Keith Langworthy, MIOSHA Asbestos Program;

Matt Macomber, General Industry Safety and Health Division;

Jim Pike, Construction Safety and Health Division;

Barry Simmonds, Consultation Education & Training Division; and

Cindy Zastrow, Consultation Education & Training Division.

Below some of the MIOSHA volunteers shared their comments on the recovery work.

By: Keith Langworthy

We arrived at the New Orleans, Louisiana, (NOLA) operations center, located in the Superdome Holiday Inn, on November 27, 2005. During the operational briefing, we were charged to seek and identify work areas and work operations of federal sub-contractors and to perform hazard assessments of the work activities.

The processes we reviewed are best characterized as, collection, handling, and reduction of construction and vegetative debris (emergency clean up). We also observed several residential and commercial construction and demolition activities. The hazards we observed were varied, but consisted primarily of traffic control issues, potential electrocution from contact with energized lines, and asbestos hazards from roofing and siding debris.

Our observations ranged from imminent danger situations to providing compliments on well-made traffic control zones. The employees we interviewed understood that our interest was their welfare. The employers we advised ranged from unwilling and obstinate to caring and compassionate.

Through the performance of our duties we also spoke with many local residents, and observed the battered remains of a strong local culture. The people we engaged were eager to learn from our observations in their neighborhoods and glad that we were there to help. For us the experience offered insight and understanding of the desire of the New Orleans communities to rebuild and revive their city and region.

By: Sharman Cross

I was assigned to the NOLA (New Orleans, Louisiana) Branch Operation. OSHA's mission was to provide technical assistance and support under the scope of the National Response Plan and OSHA's National Emergency Management Plan. All team members received 12 hours of training prior to assignment.

As an industrial hygienist I was assigned to conduct health evaluations including sampling for asbestos, silica, respirable dust, freon, carbon monoxide, and noise. Samples and intervention forms were processed daily at the NOLA Branch office. We were sent to some of the hardest hit areas, including the Orleans Parish and the Plaquemines Parish.

By: Barry Simmonds

Each day started with safety reminders and any specific new hazards encountered during the previous operational period. Daily assignments might include working with tree trimmers, or roofers. Sometimes we watched dumpsites to ensure the vehicle flagging operations were set up correctly and that everyone wore PPE.

Each day officially started 7:00 a.m. and ended at 7:00 p.m. At the end of the shift, we were asked if we'd encountered any specific problems or seen anything that was out of the ordinary. (Keeping in mind that almost everything was out of the ordinary!) The teams then signed out, grabbed a bite to eat and collapsed in the hotel to get some much needed sleep--so they could do it all again the next day.

Working seven days a week, and 12-hour operational periods, the "humor" element was quickly tested by being exposed to the extensive destruction and working long days with no time off. However, as we were all volunteers, and there for a short time, people generally made a great effort to keep up morale.

By: DeWayne Cord

Our first assignment in NOLA was intervention with contractors, doing debris clean up, and FEMA roofs in residential area. We also did traffic control along right-of-way city streets and fall protection issues during roofing work.

When the levee breeched at the London Canal, it wiped out everything in its path. The folks that lived in the 9th ward lost everything. Many were old and poor people with no means to leave their homes. Some stayed and hoped for the best. Many of the one-story homes had holes cut in the roofs where the residents climbed through or were rescued.

One day our assignment was to locate vegetation burn sites west of NOLA. Our days were 12 hours long with a lot of driving, which was the hardest part of the assignment. Spending 12 to 14 hours a day with the same person in a vehicle was like "Ground Hog Day."

It was a privilege to do a small part for the health and safety of New Orleans residents.

By: James Kivell

Nearly everywhere we went we observed damage of some type or another, smelled unique aromas from buildings and debris piles, and saw people trying to restore some sense of normality amongst less than adequate conditions.

Some areas looked fairly normal until you

Cont. on Page 19

MIOSHA staff helped protect the safety and health of recovery and cleanup workers following Hurricane Katrina.

CET Awards

MIOSHA recognizes the safety and health achievements of Michigan employers and employees through CET Awards, which are based on excellent safety and health performance.

Daniel C. Waligora, Safety Manger; Martha Yoder, MIOSHA Deputy Director; Frank Colarossi, Plant Manager; Jennifer Clark-Denson, CET Consultant; and Karina Gutierrez,HR Manager.

Diversified Machine - Detroit

On December 2nd, the Diversified Machine, Inc., Detroit facility received the **Bronze Award**, which recognizes leadership and commitment to workplace safety and health.

MIOSHA Deputy Director **Martha Yoder** presented the award to Plant Manager **Frank Colarossi**. "This award is a testament to the diligent efforts of Diversified Machine's Detroit team. It is a privilege to receive this award on behalf of all employees," said Colarossi.

The entire **Detroit Plant Management Team** was recognized for addressing safety related issues promptly. The steady decline in injuries has been the result of hard work and cooperation from employees, bay leaders and supervisors, working with the Safety Committee.

Diversified Machine, Inc. (formerly known as Uni Boring Company) iemploys approximately 100 workers and conducts precision machining on a variety of automotive parts and power train components.

Northern Concrete Pipe - Charlotte

On December 9th, Northern Concrete Pipe Inc. of Charlotte received the **Silver Award** for an outstanding safety and health record.

MIOSHA Director **Doug Kalinowski** presented the award to **William Washabaugh Sr**., president, and **Tim Phillips**, director of safety. Northern Concrete has two Michigan facilities, in Bay City and Charlotte. The Bay City facility received the Silver Award on July 13, 2004. All employees were present for the award presentation and luncheon.

"We work in an industry that is very hazardous due to the size of our equipment and products. Our company is committed to safety and will continue to make it our number-one proiority," Washabaugh said.

Northern Concrete Pipe's outstanding safety and health record came from several areas, including significant employer commitment, an active safety and health committee, job safety analysis (JSA) to identify hazards, near-miss hazard reports, and regular safety and health training.

Tim Phillips, Director of Safety; Bob Washabaugh, Vice President; Bill Washbaugh Jr., Vice President; Doug Kalinowski, MIOSHA Director; and Bill Washabaugh Sr., President.

Scott Lakari, Vice President of Operations; Tom Paine, President; Janet Bulger; Sidney Shaw, EHS Manager; Russ Folland; Greg Soper; Jeff Carlson; Bob Carroll; and Laude Hartrum (retired).

Metalworks Inc. - Ludington

On February 14th, Metalworks Inc., a manufacturer of metal filing and storage systems in Ludington, received the **Ergonomic Innovation Award**.

MIOSHA Director **Doug Kalinowski** presented the award to **Scott Lakari**, Vice President of Operations; and **Sidney Shaw**, EHS Manager; and **Safety Committee** members. All employees were on hand for the presentation.

The Ergonomic Innovation Award is issued to employers for creative and effective ideas that have been implemented to reduce worker strain. Ergonomic improvements help employees work safely without needing to overlift, over-reach, sit or stand too long, or use awkward postures.

"Creating a safe work environment for our people here is always our primary concern," said Lakari. "Many people contributed to these accomplishments and I am very pleased to accept this award for everyone at Metalworks."

Metalworks also received the **Michigan Shingo Prize** at the **Bronze Level** for manufacturing excellence from The Right Place, Inc., of Grand Rapids.

Education & Training Calendar

Date	Course Location	MIOSHA Trainer Contact	Phone
May			
3	Fall Protection for Residential Construction Warren	Patrick Sullivan Lisa Spagnuolo	586.498.4121
3, 10, 17	MIOSHA Fundamentals of Safety and Health Grand Rapids	Micshall Patrick Penny Mollica	616.698.1167
4	Powered Industrial Truck Train-the-Trainer Livonia	Jennifer Clark-Denson Arlene Cook	734.487.6991
4	Fireworks Safety for Fire Departments Bay City	Lee Jay Kueppers Dee Prieur	989.892.8601
4, 11, 18	MIOSHA Fundamentals of Safety and Health Jackson	Quenten Yoder Bill Rayl	517.782.8268
9	MSHARP/MVPP Workshop Auburn Hills	Doug Kimmel Pete Panourgias	248.322.7443
9, 16, 23	MIOSHA Fundamentals of Safety and Health Warren	Lee Jay Kueppers Holger Ekanger	586.498.4108
10	Dealing with Workplace Violence Dearborn Heights	Linda Long Joyce Deaton	313.317.1505
16	Self Inspection to Identify Hazards Muskegon	Debra Gundry Brian Cole	616.331.7180
23 & 24	Two Day Mechanical Power Press Clarkston	Richard Zdeb Peggy DesRosier	248.625.5611
24 & 25	Industrial Hygiene for the Safety Professional Gaylord	To Be Determined Mark McCully	989.705.3631
25	Supervisor's Role in Safety & Health Monroe	Jennifer Clark-Denson Barry Kinsey	734.384.4127
25	Confined Space Entry Manistee	Anthony Neroni Shelly Hyatt	231.546.7264
June			
6	Ergonomic Principles Clarkston	Richard Zdeb Peggy DesRosier	248.625.5611
6	Health Care Issues: Is Your Office MIOSHA Compliant? Holland	Dave Humenick Brian Cole	616.331.7180
6 & 8	MIOSHA Fundamentals of Safety and Health Houghton	Barry Simmonds Phillip B. Musser	906.482.6817
7	Confined Space Awareness Clinton Township	Lee Jay Kueppers Greer Rizor	586.498.4056
7, 14, 21	MIOSHA Fundamentals of Safety and Health Kalamazoo	Micshall Patrick Lisa Boreham	269.342.0139
13	Fall Protection for Residential Construction Saginaw	Tom Swindlehurst Carole Hemminger	989.793.1120
14	Excavations: The Grave Danger and Mobile Equipment Hazards Warren	Patrick Sullivan Lisa Spagnuolo	586.498.4121
20	Asbestos Awareness Training Livonia	Sherry Scott Arlene Cook	734.487.6991

Co-sponsors of CET seminars may charge a nominal fee to cover the costs of equipment rental, room rental, and lunch/refreshment charges. For the latest seminar information check our website, which is updated the first of every month: www.michigan.gov/miosha.

Construction Safety Standards Commission

Labor

Mr. D. Lynn Coleman
Patrick "Shorty" Gleason
Mr. Gregg A. Newsom
Mr. Larry Redfearn**

Management

Mr. Donald V. Staley
Mr. Peter Strazdas
Ms. Valerie J. Warren
Mr. Timothy B. Wise*

General Public

Dr. Ram Gunabalan

General Industry Safety Standards Commission

Labor

Mr. James Baker*
Dr. Tycho Fredericks
Mr. Jeffrey Radjewski
Vacant

Management

Mr. Michael L. Eckert**
Mr. Dennis M. Emery
Mr. Thomas J. Pytlik
Mr. George A. Reamer

General Public

Ms. Geri Johnson

Occupational Health Standards Commission

Labor

Dr. G. Robert DeYoung*
Ms. Margaret Robinson Faville
Mr. Ricardo L. Longoria
Ms. Margaret Vissman**

Management

Mr. David L. Glynn
Mr. John E. Miller
Mr. Gary R. Novak
Mr. Ronald J. Torbert

General Public

Mr. Satyam R. Talati

***Chair** ****Vice Chair**

Standards Update

Governor Appoints New Commissioners

December 29th, Governor Granholm appointed two new members to the General Industry Safety Standards Commission. MIOSHA welcomed them to their first public meeting February 8th in Lansing. On February 7, the Governor appointed one new member to the Construction Safety Standards Commission. Each commission consists of nine members and provides rules that establish workplace standards to protect the life and health of workers in Michigan.

General Industry Safety Standards Commission

Dennis M. Emery of Metamora, is Safety Coordinator and Director for Pioneer Cabinetry, Inc. Mr. Emery is appointed to represent the management of principal industries of this state with 200 or fewer employees for a term expiring March 26, 2008. He succeeds **Timothy J. Koury** whose term has expired and had served for 12 years.

Jeffrey Radjewski of Chesterfield, is Business and Finance Manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 58. Mr. Radjewski is appointed to represent labor for a term expiring March 26, 2008. He succeeds **John Pettinga** whose term has expired and had served for six years.

Thomas J. Pytlik of Bay City, is Environmental Health and Safety Delivery Specialist for The Dow Chemical Company. Mr. Pytlik is reappointed to represent the management of principal industries of this state for a term expiring March 26, 2008. Pytlik was Commission Chair for 2005 and has served for five years.

Construction Safety Standards Commission

Patrick F. "Shorty" Gleason of Davison and The Michigan State Building and Construction Trades Council will represent individuals actively engaged in construction operations on the employee level for a term commencing February 7, 2006, and expiring March 18, 2007. Gleason has many years with the Michigan Ironworkers and the construction industry. He will succeed **Tom Boensch** who has resigned and had served for three years.

Aerial Platforms Advisory Committee

Directed by the General Industry Safety Standards Commission and the Construction Safety Standards Commission, a joint **Aerial Platforms Advisory Committee** has been reviewing Construction Standard Part 32, ***Aerial Work Platforms,*** and General Industry Standard Part 58, ***Vehicle Mounted Elevating & Rotating Platforms***. This nine-person group has been meeting monthly since July 2005, and is making steady progress on recommendations to be presented to the commissions to establish greater consistency and to address concerns regarding roadway emergency response work.

Labor Representatives

Homer Sterner (GI-58)*
International Union of Operating Engineers
Ronald Niblock (GI-58)
UAW, General Motors
D. Lynn Coleman (CS-32)
Michigan Laborers Training Institute
Durnell Stephens (CS-32)
Local Union #17 I.B.E.W
Dennis Gillow (GI-58)
International Union of Operating Engineers

Management Representatives

Kathleen Dobson (CS-32)**
Alberici Constructors
Rodney Turman (CS-32)
DTE Energy
Ken Sullivan (CS-32)
OEMC Rentals
Larry Shields (CS-32 & GI-58)
Lansing Board of Water & Light

*Chair **Vice Chair

To contact any of the Commissioners or the Standards Section, please call 517.322.1845.

Status of Michigan Standards Promulgation

(As of March 7, 2006)

Occupational Safety Standards

General Industry

Part 08.	Portable Fire Extinguishers	Submitted for formal approval
Part 17.	Refuse Packer Units	Approved by Commission for review
Part 19.	Crawler, Locomotive, & Truck Cranes	Approved by Commission for review
Part 20.	Underhung Cranes & Monorail Systems	Approved by Commission for review
Part 50.	Telecommunications (Joint)	Final, effective 10/11/05
Part 58.	Vehicle Mounted Elevating & Rotating Platforms (Joint w/CS 32)	At Advisory Committee
Part 62.	Plastic Molding	Approved by Commission for review
Part 79.	Diving Operations	Approved by Commission for review
Pending	Ergonomics (Joint)	At Advisory Committee

Construction

Part 01.	General Rules	Approved by Commission for review
Part 02.	Masonry Wall Bracing	Approved by Commission for review
Part 12.	Scaffolds & Scaffold Platforms	Approved by Commission for review
Part 16.	Power Transmission & Distribution	Final, effective 8/22/05
Part 22.	Signs and Signals	Submitted to SOAHR for review
Part 26.	Steel Erection	Public Hearing 11/29/05
Part 30.	Telecommunications (Joint)	Final, effective 10/11/05
Part 31.	Diving Operations	Approved by Commission for review
Part 32.	Aerial Work Platforms (Joint w/GI 58)	At Advisory Committee
Pending	Communication Tower Erection	At Advisory Committee

Occupational Health Standards

General Industry

Part 301.	Air Contaminants	Approved by Commission for review
Part 504.	Diving Operations	Approved by Commission for review
Part 526.	Open Surface Tanks	Reviewed by internal staff
Part 528.	Spray Finishing Operations	Reviewed by internal staff
Part 529.	Welding, Cutting & Brazing	Approved by Commission for review
Pending	Diisocyanates	Draft to Commission for review
Pending	Ergonomics (Joint)	At Advisory Committee
Pending	Latex	Approved by Commission for review

Construction

Part 681.	Radiation in Construction - Ionizing and Nonionizing	Final, effective 10/10/05

The MIOSHA Standards Section assists in the promulgation of Michigan occupational safety and health standards. To receive a copy of the MIOSHA Standards Index (updated March 2006) or for single copies and sets of safety and health standards, please contact the Standards Section at 517.322.1845, or at www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards.

RFR	Request for Rulemaking
SOAHR	State Office of Admn. Hearings and Rules
LSB	Legislative Services Bureau
JCAR	Joint Committee on Administrative Rules

Variances

Published April 17, 2006

Following are requests for variances and variances granted from occupational safety standards in accordance with rules of the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Part 12, Variances (R408.22201 to 408.22251).

Variances Requested Construction

Part and rule number from which variance is requested
Part 10 - Lifting & Digging Equipment: Rule R408.41005 a(2), Rule 1005 a(2); Reference ANSI Standard B30.5 "Mobile and Locomotive Cranes". 1994 Edition; Section 5-3.2.1.2b
Summary of employer's request for variance
To allow employer to rig certain loads to the load line of a crane above the overhaul weight in accordance with certain stipulations.
Name and address of employer
John E. Green Company
Location for which variance is requested
GM Lansing Grand River Facility, Lansing, MI
Name and address of employer
John E. Green Company
Location for which variance is requested
Little River Casino, Manistee

Part and rule number from which variance is requested
Part 10 - Lifting & Digging Equipment: Rule R408.41015a (2) (d)(g) (3) (4)
Summary of employer's request for variance
To allow the use of a work platform mounted on the boom of a Krupp Crane to access the underside of the coal conveyor to replace rollers, provided all the requirements of Construction Safety Standard, Part 10, Lifting and Digging Equipment, except Rule 1015a (2) (g)(h)(l) are met according to certain stipulations.
Name and address of employer
Hi-Ball Co., Inc.
Location for which variance is requested
Erickson Powerhouse, Lansing
Name and address of employer
Lansing Board of Water & Light.
Location for which variance is requested
Erickson Station, Lansing

Part and rule number from which variance is requested
Part 10 - Lifting & Digging Equipment: Rule R408.41015a (2) (d)(g) (3) (4)
Summary of employer's request for variance
To allow the use of a work platform mounted on the boom of a Krupp Crane & Tadano Crane for unscheduled emergency power outage restoration work provided certain requirements are met.
Name and address of employer
Lansing Board of Water & Light
Location for which variance is requested
As reported in Item #1 in Terms of Temporary Variance

Part and rule number from which variance is requested
Part 32 - Aerial Work Platforms: R408.43209, Rule 3209; R408.43209, Rule 3209 (8)(b) and 3209 (9); and R408.43209, Rule 3209 (8) (c)
Summary of employer's request for variance
To allow employer to firmly secure scaffold planks to the top of the intermediate rail of the guardrail system for use as a work platform provided certain stipulations are adhered to.
Name and address of employer
Bristol Steel & Conveyor Corp..
Location for which variance is requested
GM Lansing LGR Body Shop, Lansing
Name and address of employer
Commercial Contracting Corp.
Location for which variance is requested
General Motors Lansing Grand River Plant, Lansing
Name and address of employer
Comunale Co. Inc.
Location for which variance is requested
GM Powertrain Lab Expansion, Pontiac
Name and address of employer
De-Cal Mechanical Inc.
Location for which variance is requested
DTE Energy Zug Island, Detroit
Name and address of employer
John E. Green Company
Location for which variance is requested
General Motors Lansing Grand River, Lansing
Name and address of employer
J C Jimenez Construction
Location for which variance is requested
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit
Name and address of employer
Limbach Company LLC
Location for which variance is requested
Pfizer Building 36, Ann Arbor
Name and address of employer
Midwest Steel, Inc.
Location for which variance is requested
T.R.E. MGM Detroit Grand Casino, Detroit
Name and address of employer
Pontiac Ceiling & Partition Co., LLC
Location for which variance is requested
GM Powertrain, Pontiac
Name and address of employer
Power Process Piping, Inc.
Location for which variance is requested
General Motors Powertrain Facility, Pontiac

Variances Granted Construction

Part and rule number from which variance is requested
Part 10 - Lifting & Digging Equipment: Rule R408.41015, Rule 1015a (2) (d)(g) (3) (4)
Summary of employer's request for variance
To allow the use of a work platform mounted on the boom of a Krupp Crane & Tadano Crane for unscheduled emergency power outage restoration work provided certain requirements are met.
Name and address of employer
Hi-Ball Co., Inc.
Location for which variance is requested
As reported in Item #1 in Terms of Temporary Variance

Part and rule number from which variance is requested
Part 32 - Aerial Lift Platforms: Rule R408.43209, Rule 3209; R408.43209, Rule 3209 (8); R408.43209, Rule 3209 (8) (b); & R408.43209, Rule 3209 (9)
Summary of employer's request for variance
To allow employer to firmly secure scaffold planks to the top of the intermediate rail of the guardrail system for use as a work platform provided certain stipulations are adhered to.
Name and address of employer
Bristol Steel & Conveyor Corp.
Location for which variance is requested
GM Powertrain, Pontiac
Name and address of employer
De-Cal, Inc.
Location for which variance is requested
GM Powertrain North Lab Expansion, Pontiac
Name and address of employer
W. J. O'Neil Company
Location for which variance is requested
Pfizer Building 36, Ann Arbor

MIOSHA Announces New Initiative to Protect Working Teens

During late spring and early summer, MIOSHA is rolling out new strategies to provide information on workplace safety and health to working teens in Michigan.

The goal of the initiative is to seek new avenues to reach teens before they begin work or early in their working careers to provide basic workplace safety and health information. This information includes common safe work practices and their rights and responsibilities under MIOSHA.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), approximately 70 teens die every year in the United States from work-related injuries. An estimated 230,000 working teens may be injured each year. About 77,000 teens are injured severely enough to warrant a hospital emergency room visit.

Further information on initiative activities will be posted on the MIOSHA website. MIOSHA also welcomes interested organizations or groups who work with teen workers to join in this new initiative.

If you would like to be a partner in this initiative, please contact **Sherry Scott** in the **CET Division** at **517.322.1809**.

MIOSHA News Quiz

Topic: Asbestos Program Information

By: George Howard, Asbestos Program Manager
Susan Baldwin, Industrial Hygienist Specialist
Kimberly Weaver, Secretary

Questions

1. Which of these are types of asbestos?
A. Chrysotile, Crystalite, Amotile
B. Crystal, Chrysotile, Amosite
C. Chrysotile, Crocidolite, Amosite

2. The Asbestos Program accredits:
A. Investigators, Management Planners, and Abatement Workers
B. Investigators, Management Planners, Project Designers, Boilermakers, and Abatement Workers
C. Building Inspectors, Management Planners, Project Designers, Contractor/Supervisors, and Abatement Workers

3. Which of these are types of diseases associated with asbestos?
A. Silicosis, Lung Cancer, Mesothelioma
B. Asbestosis, Lung Cancer, Mesothelioma
C. Asbestosis, Silicosis, Mesothelioma

4. Which is the term given to asbestos when it is dry and easily crumbled by hand pressure?
A. Power Powder
B. Friable
C. Unstable

5. True or False – Asbestos is used in over 3,000 different products.

6. True or False – Once diagnosed, most adverse asbestos-related health effects are treatable and reversible.

7. What do the letters PACM stand for?
A. Presumed asbestos-containing material
B. Probable asbestos-containing material
C. Possible asbestos-containing material

8. In Part 602, the MIOSHA Standard for Construction, what are the Classes of asbestos work?
A. I, II, III, IV
B. A, B, C, D
C. Friable and Non-friable
D. 5, 6, 7, 8

9. True or False – The safest method of dealing with asbestos-containing material (ACM) is to quickly remove it from the building at night when no one is around.

10. True or False – The Asbestos Program is responsible for asbestos activity statewide.

11. What is the number of current Michigan AHERA school management plans?
A. 1,250
B. 3,500
C. Over 5,000

12. ACM can be found in what materials?
A. Floor Tile and Ceiling Tile
B. Insulation, Plaster Walls and Drywall/Joint Compound
C. All of the above
D. None of the above

13. Exempt Trade Groups are:
A. Plumbers and Electricians
B. Mechanical Contractors and Residential Builders/Residential Maintenance and Alteration Contractors
C. All of the above
D. None of the above

14. Which is NOT a standard or act governing asbestos?
A. Act 135 – Asbestos Abatement Contractors Licensing Act
B. Act 440 – Asbestos Workers Accreditation Act
C. 29 CFR 1926.1101 – Asbestos Standards for Construction
D. 29 CFR 1910.1001 – Asbestos Standards for General Industry
E. 29 CFR 1926.62 – Lead Exposure Construction Standard

15. Asbestos abatement contractors must notify the Asbestos Program of any friable asbestos projects exceeding either or both of the following values:
A. 10 linear feet or 15 square feet
B. 5 linear feet or 10 square feet
C. 2 linear feet or 5 square feet
D. Any amount

16. Approximately how many asbestos abatement contractors are licensed to work in Michigan?
A. 10
B. 2,000
C. 150
D. 75

17. When an asbestos abatement contractor is contracted to perform asbestos abatement, what must they do before work begins?
A. Make sure no one is looking.
B. File a ten-day notification with the MIOSHA - Asbestos Program
C. File a ten-day notification with the DEQ-Air Quality Division
D. Both B and C

Answers

1. C is correct.
2. C is correct.
3. B is correct.
4. B is correct.
5. True.
6. False - asbestos-related diseases are not easily treatable and are usually fatal.
7. A is correct.
8. A is correct. Class I – Removal of TSI and surfacing ACM or PACM; Class II – ACM that is not Class I such as ACM Wallboard floor tile, roofing, siding, mastic, etc.; Class III – ACM repair and maintenance operations; Class IV – ACM Maintenance and custodial operations where material may be contacted but not disturbed, and clean up activities resulting from Class I, II, and III work.
9. False - the condition of material will dictate if it should be removed. If removal is recommended, a licensed asbestos abatement contractor that has trained and accredited workers should abate the material.
10. True - the Asbestos Program has four staff members that are required to do investigations in the entire state of Michigan (upper and lower).
11. C is correct.
12. C is correct.
13. C is correct. Exempt Trade Groups can perform asbestos abatement projects incidental to their primary license trade and are exempt from having to have an asbestos abatement contractor license. However, they must have the required training and accreditation to perform asbestos related work. They also must notify of any project that is greater than 10 linear feet or 15 square feet of friable ACM and must not perform a project greater than 160 square feet or 260 linear feet of ACM.
14. E is correct, it doesn't govern asbestos, although it does regulate lead-related work activities.
15. A is correct.
16. C is correct.
17. C is correct. A licensed asbestos abatement contractor must file a ten-day notification with the MIOSHA - Asbestos Program prior to removing more than 10 linear or 15 square feet of friable ACM. They also have to file a ten-business day notification with the DEQ if the amount removed exceeds 160 square feet or 260 linear feet.

Lanzo Construction Company Debarment Reversed

On November 18, 2005, the debarment of Lanzo Construction Company, which prohibited the company from participating in any state contracts for eight years, was reversed in Macomb County Circuit Court due to procedural issues with the adoption and implementation of the debarment process.

Governor's Construction Forum

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protecting workers must be a priority for employers. Employers with an integrated safety and health culture report not only reductions in injuries and illnesses, but also positive bottom line benefits, including:

- Lower workers' compensation costs,
- Increased productivity,
- Increased employee morale,
- Lower absenteeism and turnover.

"Walbridge is excited about our partnership with MIOSHA, our contractors, and the Detroit Building Trades," said **Vince DeAngelis**, Group Vice President/CFO, Walbridge Aldinger Company. "This marks a fundamental shift in project safety–we are formally entering into partnerships to proactively prevent unsafe conditions instead of reacting after they arise."

"Safety is a direct result of a conscious decision of the CEO to have, or not have, a safe company," said **Chuck Clark**, CEO, Clark Construction. "We have achieved 1.5 million work hours without a lost-time accident because the entire Clark team takes pride in our safety record and works hard to achieve our goals."

"Christman uses a proactive leadership approach, which combines knowledge of safety regulations with a number of industry 'best practices' which we have targeted as goals," said **Jay Smith**, Christman Senior Vice President & Safety Officer. "Our top priority is our employees, whose dedication to these goals are responsible for achieving 2.2 million hours without a lost-time accident."

Focusing on Prevention

Construction jobsites are constantly changing–and bring with them inherent dangers including falls, electrocutions, cave-ins, and being struck by heavy equipment. Construction employers and employees must view their daily tasks with a heightened awareness that an accident could happen on their project. The MIOSHA program monitors construction fatalities, injuries and illnesses, to help employers identify hazards facing construction workers and to focus prevention efforts.

More than 270 construction employers from across the state attended the Governor's Construction Forum.

Construction employees must be able to recognize hazardous conditions before an accident occurs. It is an employer's responsibility to ensure that their employees possess, at a minimum, adequate training as required by MIOSHA standards specific to the work operation or exposure.

"Protecting workers must be a priority for employers! MIOSHA rules require construction employers to implement accident prevention programs that address the hazards they face," said **Doug Kalinowski**, MIOSHA Director. "We encourage construction employers to use all available resources, including MIOSHA outreach services, to provide a safe and healthy work environment."

MIOSHA hosted this forum to share the message that protecting workers just makes good business sense–and to ensure that workplace safety and health plays an integral role in construction projects. The following speakers shared their vision and commitment, best practices, lessons learned, and how-to strategies.

Michigan Leaders Speak Out!

Robert W. Swanson, Acting Director, Department of Labor & Economic Growth;

Odell Jones III, Chairman, Associated General Contractors, Greater Detroit Chapter; and President & CEO, JOMAR Building Co.;

Patrick Devlin, Secretary-Treasurer, Michigan State Building and Construction Trades Council;

Henry L. Green, Executive Director, Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety;

Doug Roggenbaum, Regional Vice President-Michigan Region, Amerisure;

John Doherty, President/CEO, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Western Michigan Chapter;

Douglas J. Kalinowski, Director, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA).

MIOSHA Award Winners & Partners

Jay H. Smith, Senior Vice President, and **Don Staley**, Safety Manager, The Christman Company;

Charles Clark, CEO, Clark Construction Company;

Vincent J. DeAngelis, HCS Group Vice President/CFO, and **Dennis G. Jones**, Group Safety Supervisor, Walbridge Aldinger.

Sharpen the Competitive Edge

Dave Heinz, Safety Director, Birchwood Construction Company;

Patricia Lee, Human Resources Administrator, Dan's Excavating Company;

Robert C. Sherriff, President, Sherriff-Goslin Company.

Jay H. Smith and Don Staley, The Christman Company; Charles Clark, Clark Construction Company; and Vincent J. DeAngelis and Dennis G. Jones, Walbridge Aldinger Company.

Control That Site!

Douglas L. Maibach, PE, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Barton Malow Company;

John Wheeler, CEO, Rockford Construction Company, Inc.;

Scott N. Dahl, Senior Construction Specialist, The Dow Chemical Company.

Smart Workers Are Safe Workers

Daniel L. Kozakiewicz, President, Three Rivers Corporation;

Gregg A. Newsom, Training Director, Operating Engineers Local 324 JATF, Inc., "Raising Gang Program" Joint Training in Howell;

Brian Berryman, President, Superior Rent-All & Sales.

If It's in the Work We Do-It's in the Air We Breathe

Raymond Passeno, CIH, Vice President, Bierlein Companies, Inc.;

John Krieger, President, MIS Corporation-Michigan;

William J. O'Neil (John), President, W. J. O'Neil Company;

Martha Yoder, MIOSHA Deputy Director, and **Bob Pawlowski**, Construction Safety & Health Division Director, Moderators.

The MIOSHA Program has formal alliances with the following construction organizations, who also participated in the forum: Associated General Contractors (AGC), Greater Detroit Chapter; Associated General Contractors (AGC), Michigan Chapter; Construction Association of Michigan (CAM); Great Lakes Fabricators and Erectors Association (GLFEA); Masonry Institute of Michigan; and the former Michigan Road Builders Association.

"For over 30 years MIOSHA has recognized employers who do the right thing and make worker protection a part of their company culture," said Kalinowski. "Every company participating in today's forum has a proven track record of exemplary safety and health achievements. They are Michigan's 'Best of the Best!'" ■

Confined Spaces Monitoring

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40 percent of the toluene actually present.

Thus, 125 ppm X 100 percent / 40 percent = over 300 ppm toluene. The Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) concentration for toluene is 500 ppm. Thus, our one percent reading was approaching an IDLH atmosphere, and was twice the toluene 150 ppm short-term exposure limit (STEL). Please remember that these numbers are ball-park, but show that a low LEL reading could actually be a significantly toxic atmosphere.

If there is a mixture of several different combustible gases in a confined space, we suggest that the combustible gas reading is only evidence of the **presence** of combustibles, but not enough information to quantitatively determine an accurate percent of the LEL in the mixture. If that meter was calibrated for methane gas, the actual level of combustibles may be significantly higher than indicated.

Monitoring Top to Bottom

Another important point is that when monitoring the atmosphere of a confined space, the atmosphere must be monitored top to bottom. In a tank or vessel, there are very limited air currents, and gases can separate and stratify due to different densities. Thus, at the top of our example tank, oxygen levels could be normal and no toxic or combustible gases/vapors present. Heavier than air gases may have settled near the bottom of this tank, and formed an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.

This is not a hypothetical case. One such tank was at a construction project, brand new and never used. The safety personnel had tested the tank near the top and no unusual readings were noted in this area of the tank. Lying at the bottom of the tank was an undetected pool of asphyxiating gas (argon). During tank fabrication, stainless steel pipes leading to the tank were not blocked, allowing welding shielding gas to travel the pipes into the tank. **An entry was conducted and one worker fatality resulted.**

Help is Available

MIOSHA General Industry Standard Part 90 and Occupational Health Standard Part 490, ***Permit Required Confined Spaces***, provides requirements for confined space classification, programs, training, and entry procedures. MIOSHA Instruction STD 05-1, ***Application of Permit-Required Confined Spaces***, provides agency interpretation, guidelines, and frequently asked questions.

This information is available on the MIOSHA website, **www.michigan.gov/miosha**, under the "Standards" and "Agency Instruction" headings. For assistance with questions regarding air monitoring techniques, contact the **Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division at 517.322.1809** to speak with an industrial hygiene consultant. ■

Power Transmission Towers

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the energized lines (345,000 volts), in accordance with Part 1 General Rules, Rule 115 (4).

Citations were issued against Morris Painting for violations of the following rules:

- Part 1, General Rules;
- Part 6, Personal Protective Equipment;
- Part 11, Fixed and Portable Ladders;
- Part 45, Fall Protection.

The penalty assessed for the 10 citation items classified as serious and the four citation items classified as other-than-serious was $15,000. The company has appealed the citations and penalties.

Alternative Employee Protections

The investigation determined that it was not practical to shut the power lines down (the preferred method of addressing exposure to the electrical hazard), due to the densely populated area supplied, and the inability to impose the capacity of the lines on a by-pass system. Most construction projects inspected by MIOSHA may stop for a brief time while hazards are corrected, but generally continue fairly quickly when problems are resolved.

MIOSHA has ongoing discussions with Morris Painting, International Transmission Company (ITC), Consumers Energy and DTE Energy, to determine if there is a satisfactory method of painting these towers while they remain energized. ITC has agreed to submit variance requests on several issues discussed.

MIOSHA will continue to work with all the involved parties to ensure that the project is completed in the safest possible manner. The primary goal of MIOSHA is to protect the safety and health of Michigan workers by reducing or eliminating hazards in the workplace. To achieve this goal, it is MIOSHA policy to work with employers so that workplace hazards can be corrected at the earliest possible opportunity. ■

Hurricane Katrina Volunteers

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noticed watermarks on walls from just above ground level to eight feet up the walls. Other areas were filled with sludge, debris, downed trees, crushed cars, and "blue" roofs.

Unfortunately, we encountered folks that didn't use PPE, didn't guard equipment, failed to establish safe work conditions, exposed themselves to traffic, and disregarded fall protection.

And we saw folks doing the jobs correctly–Red Cross trucks feeding people on street corners, sanitation stations with porta-potties, and-bottled water and hand cleaning materials in areas where debris was being handled.

That's about all there is to say: we went, we worked, we returned, we did what we could to help.

By: Cindy Zastrow

I was deployed November 11, as a member of the DMORT (Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team) Region V Team to the St. Gabriel Base Camp/Morgue in St. Gabriel, Louisiana. DMORT is designed to provide mortuary assistance in the case of a mass fatality incident or cemetery-related incident. We work under the local jurisdictional authorities such as coroners/medical examiners, law enforcement and emergency managers. Work hours were 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., seven-days per week, with additional hours when necessary. Our physical and mental health needs were of the utmost importance, with daily medical monitoring and on-site counseling services.

The personnel I worked with were the epitome of professionalism. Dealing with some very physically and emotionally trying circumstances, they gave their all, never complained, and treated each victim with the respect and dignity that they deserve. As always, it was an honor to serve with them. ■

New Bureau of Labor Statistics Online Tool

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) introduced a new online tool to easily generate tables of nonfatal **occupational injuries and illnesses data:**

- By industry,
- By the demographic characteristics of the worker, and
- By the characteristics surrounding the incident.

The queries can be performed on Michigan-specific data, as well as national data. There is also a tool that will calculate a firm's incidence rate and will generate the average incidence rate specific to that industry. These tables can be generated in either HTML or Excel format.

There are many options available when performing these queries. At this time, only 2003 data is available, but additional years' data will be added in the future, as well as Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). This is an online version of the Profiles system that had previously been available only on CD-ROM.

The BLS website is: **www.dol.gov/bls.**

How To Contact MIOSHA

MIOSHA Hotline	**800.866.4674**
Fatality/Catastrophe Hotline	**800.858.0397**
General Information	**517.322.1814**
Free Safety/Health Consultation	**517.322.1809**
Injury & Illness Recordkeeping	**517.322.1848**

Director	**517.322.1814**	**Doug Kalinowski**
Deputy Director	**517.322.1817**	**Martha Yoder**

DIVISION	PHONE	DIRECTOR
Appeals	517.322.1297	Jim Gordon (Acting)
Construction Safety & Health	517.322.1856	Bob Pawlowski
Consultation Education & Training	517.322.1809	Connie O'Neill
General Industry Safety & Health	517.322.1831	John Brennan
Management & Technical Services	517.322.1851	John Peck

OFFICE	PHONE	MANAGER
Asbestos Program	517.322.1320	George Howard
CET Grant Program	517.322.1865	Louis Peasley
Employee Discrimination Section	248.888.8777	Jim Brogan
Management Information Systems Section	517.322.1851	Bob Clark
Standards Section	517.322.1845	Marsha Parrott-Boyle

Website: www.michigan.gov/miosha

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MI SHA News

Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Director: Douglas J. Kalinowski

The MIOSHA News is a quarterly publication of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), which is responsible for the enforcement of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health (MIOSH) Act.

The purpose is to educate Michigan employers and employees about workplace safety and health. This document is in the public domain and we encourage reprinting.

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